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OAQDA Approves More Than \$20 Million for Air Quality Improvement Projects in Northeast Ohio

Projects eliminate the use of hazardous dry-cleaning chemicals and provide energy-efficient housing powered by solar

COLUMBUS- At its July meeting, the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) approved more than \$20 million in bond financing to support two air quality projects through its signature programs, the Clean Air Improvement Program and Clean Air Resource Center for small businesses. The combined impact from these projects is increased economic benefits through the creation or preservation of nearly 90 local jobs and a 50% reduction in tenant utility bills, improved air quality with the reduction in harmful air emissions and enhanced public health savings of up to \$19,000.

“OAQDA is pleased to provide financing for these two projects that achieve positive environmental, economic and public health benefits for these Northeast Ohio communities,” said Christina O’Keeffe, executive director of OAQDA. “We continue to experience strong demand for our financial assistance and are excited to see the positive impact of these projects, creating safer, healthier working conditions at City Cleaners in Akron and significantly lower energy bills for residents of Rocky River Hilliard apartments.”

The project approved through the [Clean Air Improvement Program](#) (CAIP):

Rocky River Hilliard LLC (Rocky River, Cuyahoga County) is approved for up to \$20 million to support their new construction development located at 18501-18617 Hilliard Blvd. The development will be a five-story complex, offering 71 apartment units to increase the capacity for housing in the community. The project achieves a significant threshold of 50% energy savings through design and implementation of energy improvements including LED lighting, a high-efficiency HVAC system and hot water system, increased insulation, and a roof-mounted solar electricity system. The tenants will benefit from these improvements with a 50% reduction in utility bills through lower operating costs. The project will support the creation and retention of more than 40 full-time equivalent positions.

The project approved through the [Clean Air Resource Center](#) (CARC) for small businesses:

City Cleaners (Akron, Summit County) is approved for up to \$147,000 in bond financing, as well as a grant of up to \$20,000 to replace two outdated dry-cleaning machines and eliminate the use of PERC

(perchloroethylene), a hazardous chemical. City Cleaners, located at 1608 W. Market St., has been serving the Akron community for 68 years and is a 4th generation family-owned business. The new equipment will help them comply with Ohio EPA regulations, control air pollutants and create a safer working environment for employees. A total of 45 full- and part-time jobs will be sustained through this project.

OAQDA is committed to serving the economic and environmental needs of Ohio businesses and communities as they strive to reduce air emissions while supporting the state's economic growth. Through CARC, OAQDA offers financing packages that are structured to suit the needs of individual projects, which are incentivized with tax benefits using conduit bonds and grants to help small businesses cover a portion of project costs. OAQDA's CAIP program provides financial tools through bond financing, allowing companies to make investments in cleaner, more efficient technologies such as pollution control, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency working to position Ohio as a leader in harmonizing a strong economy and a healthy environment. Since its creation in 1970, OAQDA has worked to improve air quality by supporting businesses, creating jobs and improving communities while enhancing the health and safety of all Ohioans. To date, OAQDA has awarded more than \$8 billion to finance air quality projects. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit ohioairquality.org.